

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SANTIA 01639 092148Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 /057 W
-----041332 092155Z /61
O R 092107Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8403
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 1639

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OGEN, PGOV, SHUM, CI
SUBJECT: LETELIER/MOFFITT CASE: DEVELOPMENTS MARCH 8/9

REFS: (A) SANTIAGO 1594, (B) SANTIAGO 1615

1. THE MAIN NEWS STORY TODAY IS THE POSSIBLE IDENTIFICATION OF
"ROMERAL" AS ARMY CAPTAIN ARMANDO FERNANDEZ LARIOS, REPORTED
SEPARATELY IN SANTIAGO 1615

2. "EL MERCURIO" OF MARCH 9 REPRODUCES A SIGNED MARCH 7 STATEMENT
BY MICHAEL TOWNLEY AND A PICTURE OF TOWNLEY WALKING ON AN
UNIDENTIFIED CHILEAN BEACH. INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF TEXT FOLLOWS:
QUOTE:

I, MICHAEL V. TOWNLEY WELCH, US CITIZEN, BORN IN WATERLOO,
IOWA, USA, HAVING ARRIVED IN CHILE WITH MY PARENTS IN 1957,
MARRIED IN 1961 TO MARIANA GALLEJAS, WITH WHOM I HAVE TWO CHILDREN,
DO DECLARE: THAT I HAVE NEVER AT ANY TIME TRAVELLED WITH OR
HAVE ASSUMED THE PERSON OF JUAN WILLIAMS ROSE; THAT I HAVE NEVER
POSSESSED OR TRAVELLED WITH A CHILEAN PASSPORT AND LEAST OF ALL
WITH AN OFFICIAL CHILEAN PASSPORT; THAT I HAVE NEVER BELONGED TO,
WORKED WITH OR HAVE HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE CIA OR EVEN
LESS WITH THE MIR (MOVEMENT OF THE REVOLUTIONARY LEFT) AS CHARGED
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SANTIA 01639 092148Z

BY THE PRESS IN THE LAST FEW DAYS; THAT I AM NOT RESPONSIBLE
FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF ORLANDO LETELIER AND (FURTHERMORE) DO
NOT KNOW WHO KILLED HIM; THAT MY PARTICIPATION IN THE HIGHLY
PUBLICIZED CASE OF TELEVISION CHANNEL 5 OF CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY
IN CONCEPCION WAS LIMITED TO COLLABORATING WITH TWO FRIENDS OF
THAT PERIOD, IN LOCATING EQUIPMENT WHICH ILLEGALLY INTERFERED
WITH THAT TELEVISION CHANNEL; THAT I WAS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR

THE DEATH OF THE PAINTER HENRIQUEZ IN CONCEPCION; THAT OUR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WAS OFFERED TO AND ACCEPTED BY PEOPLE OF PATRIA Y LIBERTAD AND A LEADER OF CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY TELEVISION IN SANTIAGO ;
THAT I HAVE NEVER BELONGED TO PATRIA Y LIBERTAD OR ANY OTHER POLITICAL PARTY OR MOVEMENT.

ON THE ABOVE MENTIONED, I WISH TO EXPRESS MY ASTONISHMENT AT THE TREATMENT WHICH I HAVE RECEIVED FROM THE PRESS IN RECENT DAYS, WHICH HAS PRINTED ALL THE LIES AND SENSATIONALISM PUBLISHED IN THE POPULAR UNITY PRESS IN 1973 -- ESPECIALLY SINCE THE EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTORS OF THE SERIOUS PRESS OF TODAY, WHO ARE REPEATING ACCOUNTS USED BY THE WORST YELLOW PRESS OF THE ALLENDE ERA, KNEW ME AND COLLABORATED WITH ME AND MY WIFE DURING THAT ERA IN OPPOSING THE DISMAL GOVERNMENT OF THE POPULAR UNITY.

BECAUSE I HAVE NOT BEEN REQUIRED BY ANY AUTHORITY TO MAKE A STATEMENT OR PRESENT MYSELF, AND BECAUSE OF THE UNJUST PERSECUTION OF THE CURRENT PRESS -- SO SIMILAR TO THAT IN 1973 -- I HAVE NOT MADE ANY DECLARATIONS UP TO THIS TIME. HOWEVER, I WILL MAKE STATEMENTS RELATING TO THE CASE WHEN OFFICIALLY REQUIRED TO AND I HAVE THE MOST ABSOLUTE CONFIDENCE AND TRANQUILITY THAT THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATING JUDGE WILL BRING TO LIGHT THE REAL FACTS, WHICH ARE:

I AM NOT JUAN WILLIAMS ROSE, I HAVE NEVER HAD A CHILEAN PASSPORT. I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE DEATH OF ORLANDO LETELIER.

SANTIAGO, CHILE, MARCH 7, 1978
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 SANTIA 01639 092148Z

MICHAEL V. TOWNLEY WELCH
CARNET NUMBER 4,369,11-K SANTIAGO IMMIGRATION
END QUOTE

3. JUDICIAL ACTIONS: SPECIAL INVESTIGATION JUDGE LIBEDINSKY OFFICIALLY BEGAN HIS INVESTIGATION. HE PAID A ONE- HOUR CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER CARVAJAL WHICH HE STRESSED WAS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, NOT JUDICIAL, AND HE TOLD THE PRESS THAT HIS FIRST TASK WILL BE TO DETERMINE WHETHER PERSONS WITH THE NAME JUAN WILLIAMS ROSE AND ALEJANDRO ROMERAL JARA EXIST. LIBEDINSKY NOTED THAT APPARENTLY THEY DO NOT, BUT THIS MUST BE ESTABLISHED JUDICIALLY. PRESSED ON THE POSSIBILITY OF INTER- RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN HIS INVESTIGATION AND THE HANDLING OF THE LETTERS ROGATORY BY THE FIRST CRIMINAL COURT, LIBEDINSKY FUZZ FUZZLED HIS RESPONSE: " THERE IS NO INFORMATION AT PRESENT ON THE POSSIBILITY OF EXTENDING MY SPHERE OR ACTIVITY TO THE LETTERS ROGATORY ... I DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE IT IS A MATTER FOR THE SUPREME COURT." FIRST CRIMINAL COURT JUDGE JUANA GONZALEZ TOLD THE PRESS THAT SHE HAD SENT AN OFFICIAL DOCUMENT TO THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE MARCH 7, BUT DID NOT REVEAL ITS CONTENTS.

4. TODAY'S "LA TERCERA" CARRIED A LENGTHY ACCOUNT OF THE DEATH OF CARLOS GUILLERMO OSORIO, REPORTEDLY THE FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL WHO SIGNED THE LETTER TO THE US CONSULATE FOR OFFICIAL VISAS FOR "WILLIAMS" AND "ROMERAL." THE STORY IS DESCRIBED AS A RESPONSE TO THE "NEW YORK TIMES" STORY OF MARCH 8, ON THE SAME SUBJECT. IT ASSERTS THAT "LA TERCERA" REPORTERS, AS THE RESULT OF THEIR INVESTIGATIONS, ARE ABLE TO AFFIRM THAT OSORIO COMMITTED SUICIDE. THE STORY CLAIMS THAT POLICE OFFICIALS WERE ABLE TO DETERMINE FROM FINGERPRINTS THAT OSORIO HAD PULLED THE TRIGGER ON THE SUICIDE WEAPON AND THAT EXAMINATION OF THE CORPSE FOLLOWING SUBSEQUENT EXHUMANTION CONFIRMED THAT IT WAS SUICIDE BY THE TRAJECTORY OF THE BULLET.

LANDAU

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ASSASSINATION, INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SANTIA01639
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780106-1052
Format: TEL
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780387/aaaacvtg.tel
Line Count: 128
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b86c4cca-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 SANTIAGO 1594, 78 SANTIAGO 1615
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3386199
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LETELIER/MOFFITT CASE: DEVELOPMENTS MARCH 8/9
TAGS: OGEN, PGOV, SHUM, SOPN, CI, (LETELIER, ORLANDO), (TOWNLEY, MICHAEL V)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b86c4cca-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014